

sequence of a);

d) a nucleotide sequence having at least about 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);

e) a nucleotide sequence having at least about 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);

f) a nucleotide sequence having at least about 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence of a);

g) a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1;

h) a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleotide sequence of a), said stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 50% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, followed by a wash in 0.1X SSC at 60 to 65°C; and

i) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said *Bt* toxin is a CryIA toxin.

7. (Amended) An expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2;

b) a polypeptide having at least about 52% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

c) a polypeptide having at least about 60% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

d) a polypeptide having at least about 70% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

e) a polypeptide having at least about 75% sequence identity to the amino

acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

f) a polypeptide having at least about 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

g) a polypeptide having at least about 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity;

h) a polypeptide consisting of at least about 15 contiguous residues of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has *Bt* toxin binding activity; and

i) a polypeptide encoding a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1; wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding the fusion polypeptide is operably linked to a promoter capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence.

10. (Amended) An expression cassette comprising at least one nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, wherein said nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a promoter capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence .

11. (Amended) The expression cassette of claim 10, wherein said promoter is capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence in an insect cell or a mammalian cell.

12. (Amended) The expression cassette of claim 10 wherein said promoter is capable of initiating the transcription of the nucleotide sequence in a microorganism.

14. (Amended) A vector for delivery of a nucleotide sequence to a cell, the vector comprising at least one nucleotide sequence according to claim 1.

16. (Amended) A transformed cell having stably incorporated within its genome a nucleotide sequence according to claim 1.

Please add the following new claims 26-36:

26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 70 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 75 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 85 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity is a nucleotide sequence having at least about 95 % identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

32. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having *Bt* toxin binding activity comprises a nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 22 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

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33. (New) The expression cassette of claim 7, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide having at least about 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide having at least about 75% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

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34. (New) The expression cassette of claim 33, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide having at least about 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide having at least about 85% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

35. (New) The expression cassette of claim 34, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide having at least about 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide having at least about 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 has *Bt* toxin binding activity.

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36. (New) The expression cassette of claim 35, wherein said expression cassette comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a fusion polypeptide comprising at least one polypeptide of interest and a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
